

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Guatemala

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SUBJECT Absence of Communist Infiltration in Guardia Civil of Guatemala

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The Communists in Guatemala have not made any persistent attempts to penetrate the Guardia Civil, according to source. The director of the Guardia, Colonel Victor Sandoval, who is a brother-in-law of President Juan Jose Arevalo and a man of moderate ideas, has sincerely tried to maintain the efficiency and non-political character of the Guardia, which is almost entirely a career organization.
2. In the event of a victory at the polls for Colonel Jacobo Arbenz in the forthcoming presidential elections, source believes that Arbenz would replace Colonel Sandoval. The possibility of his appointing a Guardia director more favorable to Communism is the best opportunity for the Communists to gain influence in the organization, in the opinion of source.

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Comment. The Guardia is a national police force similar to that found in many Latin American countries. It has police jurisdiction over all the territory of Guatemala, operates its own radio station (TCR, Voz de la Guardia Civil), publishes its own bi-monthly magazine, and operates a police school. Also, it maintains a very small intelligence unit, although the Guardia Judicial, which is completely independent of the Guardia Civil, does practically all plain-clothes investigating in the country. At the present time the Guardia Civil has a total of about four thousand seven hundred men.

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